

EMS Administrative Board Meeting
March 13, 2018 @ 1:00pm
Flathead Emergency Operations Center

Members Present

Wayne Miller, MD
Mae Stubbs (KRMCMC)
Amy Vanterpool (NVH)
Bob Kun
Mary Granger

Others Present

James Brower
Amy Beick
Tina Venturini
Russ Sappington
Rick Sacca
Susan Nicosia
Linda Chambers
Jesse Best
Lance Westgard
Lisa Swanson
John Thomson
Dave Dedman
Brian Reed
Mark Thiry

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Miller at 1303 Hrs.

Approval of Agenda – Miller asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

MOTION to approve agenda; Moved by Kun, 2nd by Stubbs, all approved.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION to approve Minutes November 24, 2017. Delayed until the Board members receive the minutes and review them. Swanson will distribute the November minutes to all board members.

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Miller asked for a motion for nominations. Granger nominated Miller for Chair, Kun nominated Granger for Vice-Chair, all approved.

Introduction of New EMS Manager

Miller introduced Lisa Swanson to the group, and Swanson gave a brief background to the group and expressed a desire to meet with each department head at their station so that the individual needs of each department can be heard and understood. OES/EMS seeks to further the relationship between the office and departments.

Citizen Comments – Introductions by the group were made. James Brower (Smith Valley Fire) made comment to the affect that progress was lost in the last year or so within the EMS Office of OES. He feels that staffing is an immediate issue that the EMS community needs to address. He would like to see agencies come together and to solve some of these issues as well as better define where we would like county EMS to head towards the future. Miller agreed that Brower's comments were appropriate and that we need to address where the staffing, recruitment and retention of volunteers is headed. We need to plan for the future now and perhaps revisit the idea of a county run EMS system. Miller additionally commented that the public expectation of who responds when they call 911 for medical assistance is a fully trained paramedic, and they largely do not understand the difference between EMR, EMT, Paramedic, Volunteer or Paid. The public simply wants and needs assistance.

Amy Beick (Smith Valley Fire) stated that the EMS User group (Chair Beick, Vice-Chair Dedman) met. Miller encouraged the User Group to continue to meet to identify problems and work towards solutions. Brower added that in the past there has been a disconnect between the EMS Office of OES and the User Group, especially regarding Rules and Responsibilities, Bylaws.

Rick Sacca (OES) relayed to the group that he, Lincoln Chute (OES) and Lisa Swanson (OES) all met with the County Commissioners earlier that day and gave a brief report of where the OES office is regarding issues, projects and accomplishments. OES's goal is to keep the Commissioners well informed of issues as they arise so that when it is appropriate for the county to take action at that level it is not the first the Commissioners are hearing of the problem. In regards to Brower and Beick's concerns as previously stated, Sacca asked to speak with them after the meeting to assure they had copies of the bylaws.

EMS Manager Report – A brief report was given, since this was day three of Swanson taking office without the assistance of Dick Sine, there was not much to report on. Swanson stated that within the week she would distribute up-to-date EMS run numbers to each department for review. Swanson also stated that additional seats for the upcoming EMS conference in Idaho would be available and the county has funds to give scholarships to 10 additional county EMS providers and will email department heads for more nominations.

Medical Director Report – Dr. Briles was unable to attend the meeting. Swanson reported that she had met with Dr. Briles in the previous week and he made it known that in the near future he would like to have the ability to access all county EMS departments PCR's and records remotely. This will require each department to provide him a login and password so that he can review reports and quickly respond to any issues with a particular run. In the future, he would like all agencies to be on the same reporting platform such as Image Trend (The state supported & free reporting system) so that there is uniformity to the way in which we are entering information and

also for ease of review and access. Swanson will follow-up with each department to gather the information requested by Dr. Briles.

Granger added that the DEA site licenses are due this year (July 30, 2018), **Swanson has already prepared the documents and had them signed by Dr. Briles. (Correction Dr. Briles signed POA for Swanson to sign 222 forms for departments)**

Clarification of QRU's – Miller revisited the criteria that must be met in order for those departments that have an identified QRU and receive county funds in exchange for those services. Sacca gave a brief overview of the current issue. He explained that the response plans were built for the new CAD software with the QRU's being dispatched to provide a quick medical response in some cases before the transporting ambulance has arrived. It was brought to OES's attention by Chief Hagen from Columbia Falls that their QRU should not be paged out for those types of calls. This is due to the fact that in most all cases, Three Rivers (because of the way they are staffed) are able to respond quicker and in many cases have the patient loaded and is transporting before Columbia Falls QRU can even arrive on scene. Chief Hagen asked that when EMS calls come in for Columbia Falls that Three Rivers be dispatched and Columbia Falls QRU will only be paged when Three Rivers states they are out of resources or when the call meets certain criteria (Injury MVA, CPR, etc) where more manpower is needed.

Susan Nicosia (City Manager for Columbia Falls) spoke on Chief Hagen's behalf and stated that they are meeting their contractual agreement between the county and the city. Further, they have established an agreement with Three Rivers, and Three Rivers agrees to respond to calls without the QRU. They understand that if they need additional resources, they can make those requests through Dispatch.

Sacca asked the Board for permission to allow the county to continue dispatching Three Rivers without Columbia Falls QRU, and that when the QRU is needed they will be dispatched appropriately and will receive funds for those responding to those calls. Jesse Best (Columbia Falls Fire) and John Thomson & Lance Westgard (Three Rivers EMS) were all present and stated they were all in agreement with how these calls are currently being dispatched.

Bob Kun expressed some concern over whether or not we would be in violation of any state laws regarding QRU's. Sacca said that there were no other issues with any QRU's in the county and we are in no violation of any known state laws.

Granger added that Columbia Falls QRU is only receiving funds for readiness and for the calls they actually go on. Their services are still needed in the community and they are responding when needed.

Miller asked the board if there was any opposition, and there was none. The issue will be placed on the next agenda so that official action can be taken in May. Until then, the current system should continue as is.

Lakeside QRU

Sacca stated Granger had approached OES regarding some of the response plans for the Lakeside QRU and identified as areas that could be improved. Sacca said that OES is waiting to hear specifics from Granger as to what needs to be changed in the response plans. Sacca stated that any changes in the current response plans or re-mapping would be entertained but that we would like all players to be together when those changes are discussed to assure that everyone is on the same page and in agreement to those changes.

Budget

Sacca asked for a special meeting of the Board to discuss the EMS budget before OES meetings with Mike Pence (County Administrator) regarding the upcoming budget. OES would like the board's input and approval before meeting with the Commissioners. Miller agreed and stated that the meeting would be voluntary by the board members with at least Granger and Miller attending.

Board Member Comments –

Granger made note that a new contract with Dr. Briles will need to be discussed in May so that it can be made official by July.

Meeting Adjourned 1402 Hrs

Lisa Swanson, Recorder

Next EMS Administrative Board Meeting

May 8, 2018 @ 1:00pm

Flathead Emergency Operations Center



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